CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for retaining points of interest when switching between at least two windows running on a multiwindow computer system, the method comprising step:

   (a) allowing a user to register at least one specific point of interest in each of the windows, wherein one of the windows is active and the other windows are inactive;

   (b) displaying a persistent mouse pointer on each of the registered points of interest in the inactive windows; and

   (c) in response to the user making one of the inactive windows active, displaying an active mouse pointer at the location of the persistent mouse pointer in that window.

2. The method of claim 1 further including the step of: allowing the user to register multiple points of interest within at least one of the windows.

3. The method of claim 1 further including the step of: providing a multiwindow device driver for controlling a mouse and for displaying the persistent mouse pointers.

1   4.   The method of claim 1 further including the step of: implementing

2 the mouse as a multiwindow mouse.

1   5.   The method of claim 1 wherein step (a) further includes the step of:

2   (i)   allowing the user to position the active mouse pointer at a

3   desired location in the active window;

4   (ii)   in response to the user pressing a predefined button on a

5   mouse, displaying a dialog box that displays a list of

6   commands for user selection, which include a set command

7   and a delete command; and

8   (iii)   in response to the user selecting the set command, setting

9   the point of interest by storing the x and y coordinates of the

10   point of interest, an ID of the active window, and an ID of a

11   next window.

1   6.   The method of claim 4 further including the step of: providing the

2 multiwindow mouse with a joystick that allows the user to switch between the

3 windows and to move between the registered points of interest within the

4 windows.

1   7.   The method of claim 4 further including the step of: providing the

2 multiwindow mouse with a registration button for registering the points of interest

3 and a toggle button for moving between the registered points of interest.

1   8.   The method of claim 4 further including the step of: implementing

2 the multiwindow mouse as twin-mouse configuration.

1 9. The method of claim 8 further including the step of: coupling two

2 mice together and dedicating each mouse to a respective window or a set of

3 windows.

1 10. A multiwindow computer system capable of displaying multiple

2 windows of open applications on a display screen, wherein one of the windows is

3 active and the other windows are inactive, comprising:

4 a mouse for controlling an active mouse pointer on the display screen; and

5 a multiwindow device driver for controlling the mouse, the multiwindow

6 device driver including means for allowing a user to register a point of

7 interest in each of the multiple windows,

8 means for displaying a persistent mouse pointer on each of the

9 registered points of interest, and

10 means responsive to the user making one of the inactive windows

11 active for displaying an active mouse pointer at the location of the

12 persistent mouse pointer in that window.

1 11. The system of claim 10 wherein the user may register multiple

2 points of interest within at least one of the windows.

1 12. The system of claim 10 wherein the mouse comprises a

2 multiwindow mouse.

1 13. The system of claim 12 wherein the multiwindow mouse includes a

2 joystick that allows the user to switch between the windows and to move

3 between the registered points of interest within the windows.

1 14. The system of claim 12 wherein the multiwindow mouse includes a

2 registration button for registering the points of interest and a toggle button for

3 moving between the registered points of interest.

1   15.   The system of claim 12 wherein the multiwindow mouse comprises

2   a twin-mouse configuration that includes two mice where each mouse is

3   dedicated to a respective window or a set of windows.

1   16.   A method for retaining points of interest when switching between

2   application windows running on a multiwindow computer system, the system

3   comprising step:

4   (a)   allowing a user to register a point of interest within a first window;

5   (b)   displaying a first persistent mouse pointer on the registered point of

6   interest within the first window;

7   (c)   allowing the user to register a second point of interest within a

8   second open window; and

9   (d)   displaying a second persistent mouse pointer on the registered

10   point of interest within the second window, such that the first and

11   second persistent mouse pointers are displayed regardless of

12   which window is active.

1   17.   The method of claim 16 further including the step of: in response to

2   the user switching from the first window to the second window, displaying an

3   active cursor in a location of the second persistent mouse pointer.

1   18.   The method of claim 17 further including the step of: in response to

2   the user switching from the second window to the first window, displaying the

3   active cursor in a location of the first persistent mouse pointer.

1   19.   The method of claim 18 further including the step of: enabling the

2   user to set and delete points of interest using hotkey sequences on a keyboard.

1   20.   The method of claim 18 further including the steps of: allowing the

2 user to register a display arrangement of application windows, as well as points

3 of interest within the registered applications, such that when the computer is

4 booted, the applications are opened in the registered window arrangement with

5 locations of the registered points of interest indicated by the persistent mouse

6 pointers.

1   21.   A computer-readable medium containing program instructions for

2 retaining points of interest when switching between at least two windows running

3 on a multiwindow computer system, the instructions for:

4   (e)   allowing a user to register at least one specific point of interest in

5   each of the windows, wherein one of the windows is active and the

6   other windows are inactive;

7   (f)   displaying a persistent mouse pointer on each of the registered

8   points of interest in the inactive windows; and

9   (g)   in response to the user making one of the inactive windows active,

10   displaying an active mouse pointer at the location of the persistent

11   mouse pointer in that window.

1   22.   The computer-readable medium of claim 21 further including the

2 instruction of: allowing the user to register multiple points of interest within at

3 least one of the windows.

1   23.   The computer-readable medium of claim 21 wherein the program

2 instructions comprise a multiwindow device driver for controlling a mouse and for

3 displaying the persistent mouse pointers.

1   24.   The computer-readable medium of claim 21 wherein instruction (a)

2 further includes the instruction of:

            (i)   allowing the user to position the active mouse pointer at a

3

4   desired location in the active window;

5   (ii)   in response to the user pressing a predefined button on a

6   mouse, displaying a dialog box that displays a list of

7   commands for user selection, which include a set command

8   and a delete command; and

9   (iii)   in response to the user selecting the set command, setting

10   the of interest by storing the x and y coordinates of the point

11   of interest, an ID of the active window, and an ID of a next

12   window.